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U.S. Department of Agriculture

SPRING OF 1903



DESCRIPTIVE CIRCULAR

—OF—

STRAWBERRIES

OFFERED AT THE

BLUE GRASS NURSERIES

By H. F. HILLENMEYER & SON,

LEXINGTON, KY.

We Employ No Agents.

Telephones 279.

Strawberry Catalogue

—OF THE—

Blue Grass Nurseries

FOR THE

SPRING OF 1903

The season just past has been an ideal one, and the strawberry plant has attained great vigor and has grown in perfect health. Our offerings this year will be as large and as fine as any in our experience of over thirty years.

THE SOIL

Should be deep and dry and may be either sandy, loamy or inclining to clay, but one on which water stands or that will hold stagnant water is unfit. Ground well manured the year before and closely tilled is best, and sod land should be avoided because infested with grub worms, which will surely devour the plants just when all needed work is done; nor can the grub be discovered until the plant is injured beyond saving.

VARIETIES

Of the strawberries ripen over four or five weeks dependent on the soil and season. On sandy poor soil sloping to the South, a late variety will ripen as early as an early one on deep clay land with northern exposure, and mulching also retards ripening. There are hundreds of kinds in the catalogues, all good enough, but some suited to one soil and some to another, and nothing but a fair test can determine what will succeed in any locality. For many years we have collected and impartially tested the more prominent new comers, rejecting at once many, because of lack of vigor, proneness to disease, or poor quality. Others have been grown in a small way until found entirely worthy and when so

found have been added to our standard collection with confidence. An ideal kind must be healthy, vigorous and not prone to disease; it must be of good quality, perfect shape, bright color and medium to large size throughout its season of ripening. A kind that yields a few extra large berries will not pay nor one that bears a million on a bill.

THE PLANTING.

Should be on well prepared ground made perfectly level. The rows should be four feet apart, traced with a hand marker and the plants set twelve to eighteen inches apart. A flat steel dibble is the best implement and the plant should be set with crown just even with the surface and the earth pressed firm to the roots. Young plants are always to be used, and if dipped into water they are not only easier to set but more apt to do well. If dipped into puddle the consistency of white-wash, this covering of soil makes transplanting a certainty. The two things of greatest importance are to have the rows of even width so that cultivators can stir the soil right up to the plant saving much hand labor, and to press the soil firm around the roots so that they begin to grow whether it rains or not.

THE CULTIVATION

Must begin soon after the plants are set, and after every shower break the crust with any harrow or cultivator, but never deeply. If the rows are of even width little hand work is needed, except to chop the runners, until July 1st, after which these are permitted to form new plants. After a month or six weeks the cultivator may again be needed to destroy the plants that are now covering the entire surface, for at least half the width between the rows is to be kept free of plants for convenience in gathering. When all the surface is covered and the planting looks like a pasture there is sure to be a wealth of trifling berries, or if the season is either very wet or very dry an entire failure. When the ground is frozen cover with twice as much straw as would have grown on the same area, to protect from freeze and thaw, to keep the soil warm in winter and cool in summer and preserve the berries from earth and silt.

THE TIME TO PLANT

Is in March or April, but we get orders all the summer and fall and decline to fill them because we know the buyer will lose his money, his plants, labor and patience. We have tried summer and fall planting under the most favoring circumstances and have uniformly failed; nor

have we ever sold plants at such time twice to the same patron. The only thing to be done is to move entire masses of plants at any time during rainy summer weather, and if enough earth adheres, and the clumps are well pressed down, they will grow nicely.

AN OLD BED

Can be made to do good service by mowing off the tops just when the crop is gone and burning it over to kill weed seeds, insects and spores. Then the middles are to be plowed out, manure applied and the harrow used vigorously. Some kinds like Gandy and Brandywine yield better from an old than a new planting, but it is best not to rely on a third crop.

BARREN BEDS

Are not so frequent now as formerly, for everyone knows that some strawberries have perfect flowers and will bear anywhere and always, and that others have imperfect flowers and can of course not bear except planted near some kind that is perfect. These kinds with imperfect flowers may be so hardy, healthy and productive that we cannot afford to discard them, but in planting such, if a row or two of perfects be planted and then four or five rows of imperfects the bed will be highly satisfactory. Crescent, Haverland and Bubach are all imperfect, but these three kinds have yielded more fruit in Central Kentucky during the last fifteen years than all others combined. One cause of barren beds is the buying of plants by one patron and in their division giving to each of his friends one kind instead of some of every kind sent. Then strawberries bloom at various times. Gandy or Brandywine will not fertilize the first flowers of either Haverland or Bubach. This fact is important to the commercial grower who wants berries soon as may be and while such an arrangement is permissible in the family garden Edgar Queen, Brandywine or Clyde are better for the grower for market.

A CHAT WITH OUR FRIENDS.

The plants we will send out this year are all young ones and as nice as any we have ever grown, and are at this writing, January 15th, green as ivy. They are true to name and will be sent in bunches of twenty-five. We will begin to ship soon as the ground is dry enough to dig, and enough force is used to get off great numbers each day. The field force, the counting room and the packing department is each in charge of an expert. In reasonable weather we can get off every order on time but frost and rain paralyze plant digging, and unavoidable delays

occur, but we can dig and ship before the prepared ground is dry enough to set, and plants had better be kept in the cellar covered with moist sacking, than set when the ground is clammy wet. When a box of plants arrives at once remove the top, and the brace marks the kind below and so on to the bottom. When you divide with your friends give some plants of each kind so there will be kinds early and late, and a fair proportion of perfect and imperfect. No order is sent out that will result in a barren bed. All orders with cash enclosed will be packed free and orders of less than one dollar will be filled generously if cash accompanies. Enclosures may be sent at our risk by check, draft, express order, post office order or registry, and none will be cashed before the plants are sent. Our mail is received several times each day; we have both telephones and all wires are at once transmitted. All orders are promptly acknowledged and notice goes with each shipment.

LET US

Answer a thousand letters in this perfectly frank statement, which please read before you write. Haverland, Bubach and Gandy or Tennessee are our choice for family use and ought to be the backbone of every commercial planting, with Tennessee to fertilize these imperfects. Leader is the finest of the real early kinds but lacks vigor and needs good soil and management. If well grown, Muskingum is the finest berry on earth to eat. Edgar Queen is the best of the extra early kinds and Excelsior may or may not be better. Both are nice color and medium size. Both make too many plants and this weakness must be checked. The latter is too sour but is very firm. Clyde has too scant foliage and Brandywine lacks vigor. Mary is a monster, but rough. Bismark, Auburn and Greenville are all really good. Do not plant too many kinds. Three is enough for 500 and four for a 1000. An acre well cared for will net more than two neglected, and poor soil, poor preparation and poor tillage mean certain failure. About the additional list is said what we now know not what is copied from some other catalogue. We are glad to answer all questions but this paragraph could not be more explicit nor more expressive of personal experience and observation of Central Kentucky berry markets.

GENERAL LIST AND PRICES.

The reliability of these and their excellence for home use and market is known to every one.

		PACKING.
100.....	\$.50	
250	1.00	.10
500.....	1.35	.10
1000.....	2.50	.20
5000 ...	11.25	.40
10000.....	20.00	.80

BUBACH, Imperfect—An early or mid-season berry of the largest size, fair quality and fine color. Plant healthy, hardy and most productive. Greenville is almost exactly as this, but more vigorous and both are good market berries.

GANDY, Perfect—Excels as a very late kind. Fruit very large, firm and fine color. More productive on old than new beds.

BRANDYWINE, Perfect—Late, firm and fine, but plant lacks vigor.

CLYDE, Perfect—Mid-season, color light, berry large, fair quality, very productive, foliage rather scant.

EDGAR QUEEN, Perfect—Extra early, pretty color, quality good, berry medium, plant healthy, exceedingly vigorous and productive.

BISMARK, Perfect—Very much like Bubach, first berries sharply larger but does not hold size so well at end of season.

HAVERLAND, Imperfect—Unequalled in vigor or ability to turn off large crops of fine berries in any season, wet or dry .

LEADER, Perfect—Very early, fine size to the end, beautiful color, but not extra vigorous in plant. Quality best.

MARY, Imperfect—Huge in size but rather rough, plant vigorous and productive.

MUSKINGUM, Perfect—Midseason, large medium, very uniform. dark, quality the very best. Plant fairly vigorous but very healthy and productive.

TENNESSEE, Perfect—Hardy, healthy and most productive of pollen and fruit; very much like Haverland, but darker in color. It is disposed to make too many plants and needs checking.

ADDITIONAL LIST

That is the cream of many kinds and they have fruited here two years. Fifty cents per 100, not less than 100 of any kind, and orders filled in rotation as long as stock lasts.

COBDEN QUEEN, Perfect—Late, fair in quality, productive, healthy and vigorous.

• DOWNING'S PRIDE, Imperfect—Mid-season, fair size and quality, plant healthy and productive.

EXCELSIOR, Perfect—One of the earliest, firm, pretty, tart and quite promising. Plant very vigorous.

GIBSON, Perfect—Hardy, healthy, vigorous and productive; color dark. Mid-season.

HOWELL, Perfect Fairly vigorous and productive, but every berry a good one.

JOHNSON, Perfect—Early, medium size, vigorous and firm. Productive.

KLONDIKE, Perfect—Late, very pretty berry; plant fairly vigorous and productive.

LLOYD, Imperfect—Dark, fairly vigorous and productive.

MCKINLEY, Perfect—Vigorous, productive, color dark and berry very pretty.

PARSON'S BEAUTY,—Perfect, early, fine color. large and vigorous.

SAMPLE, Imperfect—Very pretty berry, but plant lacking in vigor and productiveness.

SEAFORD, Imperfect—Large, vigorous and productive.

STAR, Perfect—Vigorous, healthy and productive of many fine and very good berries.

A GENERAL NURSERY CATALOGUE

If not sent herewith may be had on application. Last season was very favorable for nursery growth and our stock of trees, grape vines, asparagus, rhubarb and every thing needed about the farm or city home, is complete and of extra quality.

FERN LEAF MAPLE

As an accidental find in a block of seedling water maples, we offer with foliage fine cut as a fern. The parent tree, now some ten years, old is a handsome specimen, and fine stocky trees 8 or 10 feet will be furnished as long as stock lasts at 50 cents each.

CELERY PLANTS

In season from the best obtainable seed. White Plume for early and Boston Market for late, are standard kinds of merit.

RAFFIA

For Nurseryman, Florists and many kinds of fancy work. Best Madagascar midrib, long strong and white, 20 cents per pound; 15 cents in five pound lots.

FIELD GROWN ROSES.

We have never grown finer roses, but between a sparse stand and large fall sales the stock on hand is not a large one. All are grown on our own place, and only those are listed of which we have considerable stock. Please conform orders to these.

Crimson Rambler,	} Twiners, all well known.
Baltimore Belle,	
Prairie Queen,	

HYBRID PERPETUAL.

Paul Neyron, Mt. Carmel, Jules Margottin, Jules Hanet. General Jacqueminot, John Hopper, Wm. A. Richardson, Marie Henrietta, Mad. Plantier, La Reine, Capt. Christy.

Price List, Spring, 1903.

STANDARD APPLES.

	1	10	100	1000
Extra trees, 3 to 4 years, 5 to 8 feet.....	20	\$1.50	\$10.00	\$90.00

PEARS.

Standard or dwarf trees, 5 to 6 feet, fine.....	30	2.50	16.00	
Light trees, 4½ to 5 feet.....	20	1.50	12.00	

PEACHES—Extra Stock.

One year, extra, 6 to 8 feet.....	20	1.50	10.00	80.00
“ “ medium, 5 to 6 feet	15	.75	6.00	50.00

CHERRY.

Two-year trees, fine, 5 to 6 feet.....	35	3.50		
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PLUM.

Two-year, or extra one-year.....	25	2.50	20.00	150.00
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CURRANTS AND GOOSEBERRIES.

Two-year plants.50	4.00	
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RASPBERRIES.

Black.....		1.00	7.50	
Red.....		.75	5.00	
Blackberries		1.00	10.00	

GRAPES—Large Stock.

Catawba and Cottage, two-year....	15	1.00	5.00	
Concord, Ives, Elvira, Worden, extra two year..	15	1.00	3.00	20.00
Concord, Ives, Elvira, Worden, good two-year..	10	.50	2.00	15.00
Perkins' Brighton, Isabella	15	1.00	5.00	
Martha, Pocklington, Etta, two-year.....	15	1.00	6.00	
Norton, Delaware, two-year.....	15	1.00	6.00	
Niagara, Woodruff, Wyoming, Empire State...	15	1.00	5.00	
Moore's Diamond	15	1.25	6.00	

PERSIMMON.

Two-year.....	25	2.00		
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ROSES—Field grown.....	20	1.50		
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SHRUBS—Except as noted.....	15	1.25		
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QUINCE—Two years, fine.....	20	1.50	12.00	
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ASPARAGUS.

Colossal, two-year.....		.75	4.00	
Colossal, three-year, extra.....		1.00	6.00	

RHUBARB.

	1	10	100	1000
Victoria, divided crowns		\$.50	\$3.00	\$25.00

HORSERADISH20	1.00	3.00
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SAGE	5	.40	2.00	15.00
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ORNAMENTAL TREES

Ash, European, 8 to 10 feet, fine.. ..	30	2.50		
Alder, 8 to 10 feet, fine	30	2.50		
Birch, European, white, 6 to 10 feet.. ..	30	2.50		
Butternut, 5 to 6 feet	25	2.00		
Catalpa, in variety, 8 to 10 feet, fine.. ..	25	2.00	16.00	
Elm, in variety, 8 to 10 feet.....	25	2.00	18.00	
Horse Chestnut, 4 to 6 feet,	30	2.50		
Linden, European, or American, 8 to 10 feet..	30	2.50		
Maple, Silver, 1½ inch stems.....	30	2.50	20.00	
Maple, Silver, 1¼ inch stems	25	2.00	15.00	
Maple, Sycamore and Sugar, 8 to 10 feet.....	30	2.50		
Maple, Norway, 6 to 8 feet	30	2.50		
Magnolia, in variety, 5 to 9 feet, fine.....	50	4.00		
Maiden Hair, 8 to 9 feet, fine	30	2.50		
Mountain Ash, 8 to 10 feet	30	2.50	15.00	
Mulberry, Russian, 5 to 7 feet, fine.....	25	2.00		
Oak, in variety, 8 to 10 feet.. ..	30	2.50		
Pecan, 12 to 18 inches, seedlings	10	1.00		
Poplar, Tulip, 8 to 10 feet, fine	30	2.50		
Poplar, Carolina, 12 feet	30	2.50	16.00	
Poplar, Carolina, all sizes and prices				
Sycamore, European, or American, 8 to 10 ft..	30	2.50		
Walnut, English, 5 feet, fine	25	2.00		
Chestnut, 5 to 7 feet	25	2.00		
Trees not otherwise priced.....	25	2.00	15.00	

EVERGREENS.

Arbor Vitae, American, 2 to 3 feet, fine	25	2.00	15.00	
Hemlock, 2 to 3 feet.....	30	2.50	15.00	
Juniper, Irish, 3 to 4 feet, very fine.....	35	3.50	20.00	
Norway, Spruce, 3 to 4 feet.....	30	3.00	20.00	
Silver Fir, 3 to 4 feet.....	30	3.00	20.00	
White Pine, 3 to 4 feet.....	30	3.00		
Sweet Bay, 3 to 4 feet.. ..	50	4.00		
American Holly, 1 to 2 feet	50	4.00		
Evergreen, not priced.....	30	2.50		

